

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of representing a frame counter used in communication between a sender and a receiver, the frame counter having a first component representing an encoded frame counter and a second component representing a sequence counter, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) maintaining said sequence counter and said frame counter at the sender;
 - b) establishing an updated value of the frame counter as the next value in a direction of counting from the current value of the frame counter that is congruent to the sequence counter modulo the size of the sequence counter ; and
 - c) computing an encoded value of the frame counter by removing from the frame counter ~~[[50]]~~ a component equal to the value of the sequence counter such that the updated frame counter is uniquely recoverable from said encoded value of the frame counter and said sequence counter.
2. (previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the sequence counter is updated each time a message is sent.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the frame counter is congruent to the sequence counter modulo 256.
4. – 13. (cancelled)
14. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the frame counter is recovered by concatenating the encoded frame counter value with the sequence counter.
15. (new) A method according to claim 14 wherein the encoded value of the frame counter is 3 bytes in length.
16. (new) A method of transmitting messages from a sender to a recipient over a wireless channel, the order of messages being identified by a frame counter having a first component representing an encoded frame counter and a second component representing a sequence

counter, said messages including a value representing the sequence counter, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) establishing an initial value for the frame counter at said sender;
- b) providing the initial values representing said frame counter and said sequence counter to said recipient;
- c) subsequently sending messages including the value of the sequence counter and not the encoded frame counter;
- d) periodically sending messages including the value of the frame counter according to predefined criteria;
- e) updating the value of said sequence counter; and
- f) establishing the next value of the frame counter as the next value in a direction of counting from the current value of the frame counter that is congruent to the sequence counter modulo the size of the sequence counter.

17. (new) A method according to claim 16 wherein the predefined criteria are when a predetermined number of messages including the value of the sequence counter and not the encoded frame counter are sent.

18. (new) A method according to claim 17 wherein the predetermined number is in the range 2 to 10.

19. (new) A method according to claim 2 wherein said update is an increment.

20. (new) A method according to claim 16 wherein the sender monitors for an acknowledgement of receipt of said message by said recipient, and the predefined criteria are when no acknowledgement is received.